



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

Thursday, 15 November, 2007

1. The House met at 11:15 a.m. Mr Speaker read Prayers.

2. **Votes and Proceedings:**

Mr Speaker announced that he had examined and approved the Votes and Proceedings of Wednesday, 14 November, 2007.

By unanimous consent, the Votes and Proceedings was adopted.

3. **Announcements:**

(i) *Bereavement:*

Mr Speaker acquainted the House with the death of Chief Jacob Omeire, the father of Hon. Rufus Omeire, which occurred on Saturday, 12 November, 2007. He would be buried on Friday, 23 November, 2007.

Hon. Emeka Iheidoha rendered prayers for the repose of the soul of the deceased.

(ii) *Funeral Arrangements:*

Mr Speaker read a letter from Mrs Clara Anota, wife of late Hon. Joe Anota notifying the House of the funeral arrangements of Hon. Joe Anota on 5 and 6 December, 2007 at No.1 Anota Quarters, Oka-Akoko, Ondo State.

(iii) *Invitations:*

(a) Mr Speaker read an invitation to the wedding ceremony of Hon. Bello Ibrahim Keta, on Saturday, 17 November, 2007, at Kogon Katsina, Sabuwa Local Government Area, Katsina State.

(b) Mr Speaker also read a letter from the Ogun State Government, inviting Members to a reception in honour of the Honourable Speaker, Hon. Oladiineji Sabur Bankole, on Saturday, 18 November, 2007 in Lagos.

(iv) *Visitors:*

Mr Speaker announced the presence in the Gallery, of Staff and Students of:

(a) Footsteps International School, Gwarinpa Estate, Abuja;

(b) New Horizon College, Minna, Niger State; and

(c) Lincoln International School, Abuja.

4. **Petitions:**

Six petitions were received and referred to Committee on Public Petitions:

- (i) Hon. Dino Melaye (*Kabba/Bunu/Igalamela/Ofu Federal Constituency*), from BUA International Ltd, praying the House to investigate the circumstances leading to the sale of Delta Steel Company to Global Steel Holdings instead of BUA International Ltd, who was officially declared the preferred bidder and had complied with requirements for the purchase of the Company.
- (ii) Hon. Titilayo Akindahunsi (*Ekiti South West/Ikere/Orun/Ise Federal Constituency*), from Mr J. A. Ojo, praying the House to investigate his alleged unlawful removal from the Federal Civil Service with a view to reinstate him
- (iii) Hon. Samuel Whesu Sejoro (*Badagry Federal Constituency*), from Mr Akibu **Balogun** and 27 other dismissed staff of the Administrative Staff College of Nigeria (ASCON), praying the House to prevail on the Management of ASCON to convert their dismissal to retirement **with** benefits;
- (iv) Hon. Doris Uboh (*Ika North East/Ika South Federal Constituency*), from Stephen **Emeka**, praying the House to investigate his unjust disengagement by the Central Bank of Nigeria and grant the reliefs sought **therein**;
- (v) **Hon. Dele Obadina (Ifo/Ewekoro Federal Constituency), from Afolabi Joseph Olurotimi, praying** the House to investigate the dehumanizing and inhuman treatment he suffered in the hands of the Management of West African Portland Cement Plc, Ikeja Business District, Lagos and grant the reliefs sought therein;
- (vi) Hon. Samaila A. Mohammed (*Jos North/Bassa Federal Constituency*), from Mohammed Bashir Fekin (ASNII), praying the House to investigate the alleged wrongful termination of his employment from the National Drug Law Enforcement Agency (NDLEA) and grant the reliefs sought therein.

5. **Presentation of Reports:**

Committee on **Public** Petitions:

(i) **Report on Petition by Mr Kayode Hambolu:**

Motion made and Question proposed, "That this House do receive the Report of the House Committee on Public Petitions, on the Petition by Mr Kayode Hambolu against Sageito Limited" (Hon. C. I. D. Maduabum).

Question put and agreed to.

Report Laid.

(ii) **Report on Petition by Dr V. E. Osayaande:**

Motion made and Question proposed, "That this House do receive the Report of the House Committee on Public Petitions, on the Petition by Dr V. E. Osayaande against the Federal Ministry of Health" (Hon. C. I. D. Maduabum).

Question put and agreed to.

Report Laid.

6. **Matter of Urgent Public Importance:**

Hon. Farouk Abdullahi drew the attention of the House to the recent publication in most Nigerian newspapers in respect of the sale of Federal Government Houses as advertised by the Federal Capital Territory Administration (FCTA). He pointed out that this would impact negatively on the lives of the affected Civil Servants. He therefore prayed the House to debate the matter as one of Urgent Public importance and to suspend Order VIII, Rule 4 (3) **to** enable the House debate the matter forthwith.

*Question **that** the matter be debated, put and agreed to.*

*Question that Order **VIII**, Rule 4 (3) be suspended **to** permit debate forthwith, put and agreed to.*

7. **Sale of Federal Government Houses:**

Motion made and Question proposed,
The House:

Notes, the recent advertisement in most Nigerian Dailies by Federal Capital Territory Administration (FCTA) advertising the Walk-In 100% cash sales of Federal Government Houses, revoked from career Civil Servants, beneficiaries of the earlier bidding;

Concerned, that the appropriate procedure has not been followed by the Federal Capital Territory Administration;

Further notes, that most of the Houses put on sale are for Civil Servants, who either have paid either 10-20% of the value and are waiting for Banks to grant them the balance as Mortgage facility, or have their Bank Draft for payment to the FCTA, but which FCTA has refused to collect from them for selfish reason of selling the said Houses to their relations and friends;

Further concerned, that most of these people have been denied their letter of offer after having showed interest and after having followed the due process for the acquisition of the Houses from the Federal Capital Territory Administration;

Resolves:

- (i) that the sale of these Houses should be put on hold for the next four months (up to 28 February, 2008) to enable the earlier beneficiaries who are presently occupying the Houses to access mortgage facilities;
- (ii) that the Federal Capital Territory Administration should accept the Bank Drafts from those who have their Drafts ready for payment;
- (in) that the Joint Committee on Federal Capital Territory, Housing and Habitat, Public Service, Labour, Employment and Productivity do carry out a proper investigation on the modalities of the sale of the Houses (*Hon. Farouk Abdullahi*).

Debate:

Amendments Proposed:

- (i) In line 1, *leave out* the words "that the sale of these Houses should be put on hold" and *insert* the words "urge the Federal Capital Territory Administration to put the sale of these houses on hold" instead **thereof** (*Hon. C.I.D. Maduabum*).

Question that the amendment be made, put and agreed to.

- (ii) *Insert* a new prayer (iv) as follows:
"urge the Federal Capital Territory Administration to suspend the process of evicting the concerned civil servant and grant an extension of 12 **months**" (*Hon. Ifatuyi Isibor*).

Question that the amendment be made, put and agreed to.

- (iii) *Insert* a new prayer (v) as follows:
"direct the Joint Committee on Federal Capital Territory and Housing and Habitat and Banking and Currency to investigate and report to the House" (*Hon. Nasiru Mohammed*).

Question that the amendment be made, put and negated.

- (iv) *Insert* a new prayer (v) as follows:
"Further urge the Federal Capital Territory Administration to work with the Federal Mortgage Bank and other Mortgage Institution to provide credit facilities to Civil Servants who have their allocation papers" (*Hon. Betty Apiafi*).

Question that the amendment be made, put and agreed to.

- (v) *Insert* a new prayer (vi) as follows:
"urge the Federal Capital Territory Administration to suspend the ultimatum given to the Civil Servants" (*Hon. Yakubu Barde*).

Question that the amendment be made, put and agreed to.

- (vi) *Insert a new prayer (vii) as follows:*
 "direct the Joint Committee on Federal Capital Territory and Housing and Habitat to liaise with authorities of the Federal Capital Territory Administration and bring up realistic solutions to the problem" (*Hon. Yakubu Barde*).

Question that the amendment be made, put and agreed to.

Main Question as amended, put and agreed to. The House:

Noted, the recent advertisement in most Nigerian Dailies by Federal Capital Territory Administration (FCTA) advertising the Walk-In 100 % cash sales of Federal Government Houses, revoked from career Civil Servants, beneficiaries of the earlier bidding;

Concerned, that the appropriate procedure has not been followed by the Federal Capital Territory Administration;

Further noted that most of the Houses put on sale are for Civil Servants, who either have paid either 10-20% of the value and are waiting for Banks to grant them the balance as Mortgage facility, or have their Bank Draft for payment to the FCTA, but which FCTA has refused to collect from them for selfish reason of selling the said Houses to their relations and friends;

Further concerned, that most of these people have been **denied** their letter **of** offer after having showed interest and after having followed **the** due process for the acquisition of the Houses from the Federal Capital Development Authority;

Resolved to:

- (i) urge the Federal Capital Territory Administration to put the sale of these houses on hold (up to 28 February, 2008) to enable the earlier beneficiaries who are presently occupying **the** Houses to access **mortgage** facilities;
- (ii) further urge the Federal Capital Territory Administration to accept **the** Bank Drafts from those who have **their** Drafts ready for payment;
- (iii) direct the Joint Committee on Federal Capital Territory, Housing and Habitat, Public Service, Labour, Employment and Productivity do carry out a proper investigation on the modalities of the sales of the Houses;
- (iv) urge the Federal Capital Territory Administration to suspend the process of evicting the concerned Civil Servant and grant an extension of 12 months;
- (v) further urge the Federal Capital Territory Administration to work with the Federal Mortgage Bank and other Mortgage Institution to provide credit facilities to civil servants who have their allocation papers;
- (vi) *civil* urge the Federal Capital Territory Administration to suspend the ultimatum given to the civil servants;
- (vii) direct the Joint Committee on Federal Capital Territory and Housing and Habitat to liaise with Federal Capital Territory Administration and bring up realistic solutions to the problem (**HR. 16/2007**).

8. **Giving Priority to Abandoned Federal Government Projects:**

Motion made and question proposed,
The House:

Notes, that several uncompleted Federal Government Projects have been left abandoned in nooks and crannies of this country, thereby defeating the purpose for which they were initiated;

Observes, that most of these projects if completed will have positive and direct impact on the lives of the citizenry;

Concerned, that it will amount to huge waste of resources to allow these projects to remain uncompleted considering the huge sums of money that has been expended on them;

Aware, that these projects which range from roads, water, electricity, agriculture, health centers, schools etc.

- *occupy the central point in our quest for infra structural development;*

Resolves to:

- (i) *direct Ministries/Parastatals/Agencies of the Federal Government to give priority attention to the early completion of all abandoned/ongoing Federal Government projects in the 360 Federal Constituencies in the country;*
- (ii) *mandate the Joint Committee on Works, Power and Steel, Water Resources and other relevant Committee(s) to collate a comprehensive list of all Federal Government Projects that have been abandoned, for the House to consider appropriate budgetary provisions for their completion if not captured in their 2008 Budget Proposal (Hon. Samson R. Osagie and 50 Others).*

Debate:

Amendments Proposed:

- (i) *Leave out all the words in Prayer (i) and insert a new Prayer (i) as follows:*
"urge all Ministries/Parastatals/Agencies and other relevant organs of government to collect and submit a comprehensive list of all projects under their jurisdiction that have been abandoned or uncompleted to the House, for consideration and appropriate budgetary provisions for their completion if not captured in the 2008 budget proposal" (Hon. Peter L. Umoh).

Question that the amendment be made put and agreed to.

- (ii) *Insert a new Prayer (iii) as follows:*
"dial every member should list five abandoned projects from their Constituencies in order of priority, that are to be included in the 2008 Budget and submit to the relevant Committees" (Hon. Beni Lar).

Question that the amendment be made put and negatived.

- (iii) *Insert a new Prayer (iii) as follows:*
"mandate all relevant Committees to liaise with the relevant Federal Ministries/Departments/Agencies to collate and produce a list of all Federal Government abandoned projects and submit same to the House for consideration" (Hon. Chille Igbawua).

Question that the amendment be made put and agreed to.

- (iv) *Insert a new Prayer (iv) as follows:*
"urge the Federal government to enact an enabling law in support of the Constitution of all abandoned projects to avoid wastes" (Hon. George Daika).

Question that the amendment be made put and negatived.

- (v) *Insert a new Prayer (v) as follows:*
"mandate the Committee on Works to investigate all cases of abandoned projects in the country" (Hon. George Daika).

Question that the amendment be made put and negatived.

Main Question as amended, put and agreed to. The House:

Noted, that several uncompleted Federal Government Projects have been left abandoned in nooks and crannies of this country, thereby defeating the purpose for which they were initiated;

Observed, that most of these projects if completed will have positive and direct impact on the lives of the citizenry;

Concerned, that it will amount to huge waste of resources to allow **these** projects to remain uncompleted **considering** the huge sums of money that has been expended on them;

Aware, that these projects which range from roads, water, electricity, agriculture, health centers, schools etc. occupy the central point in our quest for infrastructural development;

■ *Resolved to:*

(0) urge all Ministries/Parastatals/Agencies and other relevant organs of government to collect and submit a comprehensive list of all projects under their jurisdiction that have been abandoned or uncompleted to the House for consideration and appropriate budgetary provisions for their completion if not captured **in** the 2008 budget proposal;

(it) mandate the Joint Committee on Works, Power and Steel and Water Resources and other relevant Committee(s) to collate a comprehensive list of all Federal Government Projects that have been abandoned for the House to consider appropriate budgetary provisions for their completion if not captured in the 2008 Budget Proposal.

(iii) mandate all relevant **Committees** to liaise **with** the relevant Federal Ministries/Departments/Agencies to collate and produce a list of all Federal Government abandoned projects and submit same to the House for consideration **(HR. 17/2007)**.

9. Approval of Votes and Proceedings:

Motion made and Question proposed, "that this House do approve the Votes and Proceedings of This Day, Thursday, 15 November, 2007" (*Hon. Ita Enang*).

Question put and agreed to.

10- Adjournment:

That this House do now adjourn till Tuesday, 20 November, 2007 at 10:00 a.m. (*Hon. Tunde Akogun*).

Adjourned accordingly at 1.40 p.m.

Dimeji Sabur Bankole
Speaker

CORRIGENDUM

In the Votes and Proceedings of Wednesday, 14 December, 2007:

On page 161, Paragraph 3 (*if*) (Committee Chairmanship):

Leave out the words " Mr Speaker read a letter from Hon. Bernard Udo, withdrawing his letter of resignation as the Chairman, Committee on Due Process dated Tuesday, 16 October, 2007" and *insert* the following letter instead thereof:



RT. HON. BERNARD AMBROSE UDOH
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
NATIONAL ASSEMBLY FEDERAL
REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

November 12, 2007

The Rt. Honourable Speaker
House of Representatives
National Assembly Abuja.

Dear Sir,

RE: RESIGNATION AS CHAIRMAN HOUSE COMMITTEE ON DUE PROCESS

*/ write **to formally** withdraw my letter of resignation as Chairman House Committee on Due Process dated October 16, 2007.*

*You will recall that during the House contract incidence, I resigned my **appointment** as Committee Chairman . basically due to the fact that it .would have been wrong of me to continue to serve as Committee chairman under a leadership that did not respect either the tenets of due process nor the views of the majority **of** members of the House of Representatives.*

Kindly therefore consider this request for the withdrawal of my resignation and give it your due consideration.

Yours Truly

(Signed)

The Rt Hon. Bernard Udoh